25th November 1952]

Extension of term of panchayat boards.

* 154 Q.—Sri C. RAJAM RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of extensions that have been given to the existing panchayat boards in the whole of this State, and in particular in Tanjore district after they were reconstituted in 1933, under the Old Local Boards Act; and

(*b*) the reasons for the delay in holding elections under the Village Panchayats Act, 1950?

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) Twenty-four extensions were ordered since elections to panchayats in all the districts were last held in 1939 and these orders related to the panchayats in Tanjore district also.

" (*b*) Owing to the abnormal conditions created by the War, elections to panchayats during the years 1942–46 were postponed from time to time. After resumption of office by the Ministry, the question of the reform of panchayats and the introduction of adult franchise were taken up. The Madras Village Panchayats Bill, 1949, was enacted into law on the 1st August 1950 and the new Act was brought into force from the 1st April 1951. The new Legislative Assembly rolls based on adult franchise which are also the rolls for panchayat elections, were not ready till the 30th October 1951. The elections to the State Legislature and subsequently to Municipal Councils intervened and they rendered it inevitable to postpone the elections to panchayats still further to avoid a clash. Preparations are now over and the elections to panchayats in Cuddapah are started and the elections in other districts also will go on."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Economic development of Rayalaseema.

35 Q.—Sri K. KRISHNA RAO : With reference to the answer to question No. 1061, dated 4th April 1951, of the Legislative Assembly, will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the further action taken on the following :—

(*a*) The lump-sum grant of Rs. 3 crores in all for the economic development of Rayalaseema as suggested on page 955 of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, dated 4th April 1951;

(*b*) Afforestation of the Pennar and Hagari banks to protect lands from the shifting sands;

(*c*) Promotion of Industrial Development by State enterprise in Rayalaseema;

(*d*) Gandikota Project;

(*e*) Sagileru Project;

(*f*) Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Project;